

## STALKED BARNACLES (CIRRIPEDIA PEDUNCULATA) IN THE COLOMBO MUSEUM.

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AMONG the Cirripedes in the Colombo Museum I have been able to identify the following :—(1) *Lepas anserifera*, Linn., the commonest pedunculate form on floating objects in this part of the Indian Ocean ; (2) *Dichelaspis pellucida*, Darwin, a somewhat scarce species only taken on sea-snakes ; and (3) *Dichelaspis equina*, Lanchester, which was not described until about three years ago [Lanchester, P. Zool. Soc., London, 1902 (2), p. 375] but appears to be common on shallow-water crabs of the east coast of India as well as in some parts of Malaya.

The specimens of *L. anserifera* are attached in dense masses to pieces of wood and to a bottle ; those of *D. pellucida* are scattered on the body of a sea-snake (*Hydrus platurus*) ; while *D. equina* is represented by numerous individuals crowded together on the posterior walking legs and carapace of a *Dorippe dorsipes* (Linn.), and by others scattered on the dorsal and ventral surfaces and mouth parts of *Scylla serrata* (Forsk.).

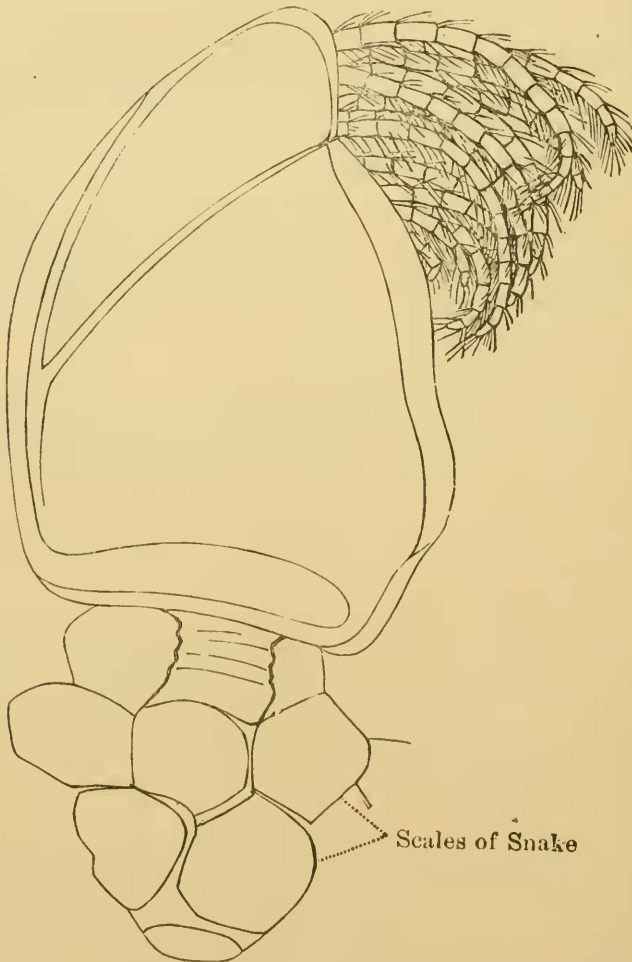
The distribution of *L. anserifera* is world-wide. So far as I am aware, neither species of *Dichelaspis* has been reported hitherto from the immediate neighbourhood of Ceylon. *D. equina* was described from the east coast of the Malay Peninsula, while *D. pellucida* is an Oriental species which probably has a fairly extensive distribution.

DICHELASPIS TENUIVALVATA, sp. nov.

### Diagnosis.

*Capitulum* compressed ; carinal edge rounded ; occludent edge sinuous, slanting outwards from above ; lower edge straight, horizontal ; opening large. Five imperfectly calcified plates ; carina not reaching the upper edge of the capitulum above.

furcate below, the two rami extending along the base of the capitulum; tergum large, triangular, almost entirely covering the upper part of the membrane between the carina and the opening; scutum large but very imperfectly developed inferiorly (the lower border being quite indistinct), in contact with the tergum along the tergal margin above, feebly separated from the carina behind, not cleft. *Peduncle* very short, transversely wrinkled. *Mouth-parts* well developed; the mandible very large, with five teeth; the labrum feebly bullate; the maxilla furnished with stout bristles along its free edge, the inner half of which is almost straight, while the outer half is deeply concave.



*D. tenuirivata* Annand.  $\times 30$ . The specimen has been removed from the body of the snake to which it was attached, some of the scales of the snake still adhering to the short stalk of the barnacle.

*Measurements.*

Length of capitulum	...	...	5 mm.
Breadth of capitulum	...	...	4 mm.
Length of peduncle	...	...	1.5 mm.

This interesting species is represented by several specimens, growing, side by side with *D. equina*, on the ventral surface of a sea-snake (*Hydrus platurus*) from the coast of Ceylon.

All the members of the genus *Dichelaspis* are notable for the reduction of the capitular plates which they exhibit. In *D. tenuivalvata*, however, the degeneracy is of structure rather than of form. The five plates represented are all large, but their calcification is so imperfect that although the mantle is very transparent, I was unable to see their limits without staining the specimens. Even when thus prepared they were by no means easy to examine critically, and failed entirely to discern the lower termination of the scuta. On the whole, the affinities of the new form would seem to lie with Lanchester's *D. occlusa* (*P. Z. S.*, 1902 (2)) from the east coast of the Malay Peninsula. From this species it may be distinguished by its extremely short peduncle and imperfectly differentiated but undivided scuta.